

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace the claims that were published in the PCT Application and the International Preliminary Examination Report:

1. (currently amended) Method for storing data as bit cells in a prerecorded area of an optical recording medium using pits (6) ~~and lands (7)~~ and lands, whereby the pits (6) ~~and lands (7)~~ are placed out of the center of a track of the prerecorded area, ~~characterized in that the method comprises~~ including the step of arranging the pits (6) ~~and lands (7)~~ adjacent to bit cell signal transitions (1, 2, 3, 4) in a predefined manner.
2. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pits (6) ~~and lands (7)~~ are arranged in a fixed recurring sequence of pit lengths and land lengths at the bit cell signal transitions (1, 2, 3, 4).
3. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pits (6) are arranged symmetrically to the bit cell signal transitions (1, 2, 3, 4).
4. (currently amended) Method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of arranging the lands (7) adjacent to the pits (6) symmetrically to the bit cell signal transitions (1, 2, 3, 4).
5. (currently amended) Method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, further comprising the step of placing an identical number of pits (6) and lands (7) in each bit cell.
6. (currently amended) Method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, further comprising the step of setting the lengths of the pits (6) ~~and lands (7)~~ to integer multiples of a predefined length based on a nominal channel clock (T) and a nominal rotational speed of the recording medium.

7. (currently amended) Method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, further comprising the step of inserting a gap 8 at the bit cell signal transitions ~~(1, 2, 3, 4)~~.
8. (currently amended) Method according to ~~anyone of claims 1-7~~ claim 1, further comprising the step of arranging pits (6), which are long compared with the diameter of a readout spot, near the bit cell signal transitions ~~(1, 2, 3, 4)~~.
9. (currently amended) Method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of arranging lands (7), which are short compared with the diameter of the a readout spot, within the bit cell.
10. (currently amended) Method according to ~~anyone of claims 1-7~~ claim 8, further comprising the step of arranging pits (6) ~~with a length corresponding to the full width at half maximum of the intensity distribution of the readout spot near the~~ lands, which are short compared with the diameter of the readout spot, within the bit cell ~~signal transitions (1, 2, 3, 4)~~.
11. (currently amended) Method according to ~~anyone of claims 8-10~~ claim 10, further comprising the step of arranging pits (6), which are short compared with the diameter of a readout spot, within the bit cell.
12. (currently amended) Method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 10, further comprising the step of ~~varying the distance between the track center (10) and the pits (6) and lands (7)~~ arranging pits with a length corresponding to the full width at half maximum of the intensity distribution of the readout spot near the bit cell signal transitions.

13. (currently amended) Method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 12, further comprising the step of ~~varying the width of the pits (6)~~ arranging pits, which are short compared with the diameter of a readout spot, within the bit cell.

Claims 14 - 17 are cancelled.

18. (new) Method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of varying the distance between the track center and the pits and lands.
19. (new) Method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of varying the width of the pits.
20. (new) Method according to claim 1, wherein the average of a modulation signal containing the stored data is zero for bit cells representing a digital '1' and zero for two consecutive bit cells representing a digital '0'.
21. (new) Optical recording medium, comprising at least one prerecorded area in which data is stored according to a method according to claim 1.
22. (new) Apparatus for reading from optical recording media, comprising means for retrieving data stored in at least one prerecorded area of an optical recording medium according to a method according to claim 1.
23. (new) Apparatus for writing to optical recording media, comprising means for writing data to optical recording media according to a method according to claim 1.